

HOUSE RESOLUTION 192
By Harmon

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Coach Al Raffo of the Marion County High School baseball team on the occasion of his retirement from coaching.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such remarkable person is Coach Al Raffo, who recently retired as Head Coach of the Marion County High School baseball team, after having led the Warriors to State baseball prominence during his twenty-seven year tenure with the school; he has served the students of Marion County for thirty years, the first three of which were spent coaching at South Pittsburg High School; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to the baseball diamond, Coach Raffo attended Los Angeles Community College for two years, until he was signed by a scout with the Philadelphia Phillies organization in 1962; he played for ten years with that organization: for the Pacific Coast League Padres, the Chattanooga Lookouts, and the Phillies; and

WHEREAS, he came to Marion County in 1973 and coached three years for South Pittsburg High School; renowned for his hard work and dedication to the game, he was then named Head Coach at Marion County High School; and

WHEREAS, Coach Raffo retires with a sterling career win-loss record, having often led the Warriors to postseason play; his teams earned the AA District Championship ten times, as well as five State playoff berths; and

WHEREAS, his best year coaching was 1990, in which the Warriors beat Grundy High School in the regional playoffs and advanced to the AA State Tournament; overlooked by most teams for their 17-12 record, the team had a surprising finish as runners-up to Tullahoma High School for the State championship; and

WHEREAS, Coach Raffo is a ten-time recipient of the District Coach of the Year Award and has earned Region Coach of the Year honors five times; and

WHEREAS, he has served the people of Marion City with distinction, not only as a coach, but also as a community leader, mentor, neighbor, and friend; he will remain an active figure at Marion County High School, where he will maintain his position as a teacher; and

WHEREAS, not content to leave his most important work in the classroom or on the baseball diamond, Coach Raffo has been an active and important part of his profession, participating in and lending his support to numerous professional organizations, including the Marion County Education Association, the Tennessee Education Association, and the National Education Association; and

WHEREAS, he also contributes his time and numerous talents as a Board Member of the Chattanooga Area Schools Federal Credit Union; and

WHEREAS, Coach Raffo has earned numerous professional honors during his tenure as an educator, including Marion County Teacher of the Year in 1990; and

WHEREAS, despite a highly successful and demanding career, Al Raffo has remained committed to the values of family and community; he is most grateful for the love and

companionship he shares with his wife, Nancy; their children, Greg Raffo and Angie Blevins; and their grandchildren, Lucas Raffo and Braden Blevins; and

WHEREAS, he evinces his great faith as a member of the First Baptist Church of Jasper; and

WHEREAS, Al Raffo epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Coach Raffo for his numerous contributions to Tennessee high school athletics and academics; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Coach Al Raffo for his meritorious service as a teacher and coach at Marion County High School, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.